

WARREN
MAGAZINE

ALL NEW STORIES AND ARTICLES **COLOR!**

39¢
PG
#100

VAMPIRELLA

VAMPI
#35

AUG. 1974

WHO WAS
THE HUNTER?
WHO WAS
THE VICTIM?
WHEN...
"THE NIGHT
RAN RED
WITH GORE!"

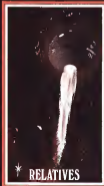
AND
VAMPIRELLA
FIGHTS
THE DUEL
OF HER
LIFE
AGAINST
"THE BLOOD
GULPER!"





VAMPIRELLA

SIX HORROR CLASSICS THIS ISSUE!





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VAMPIRELLA NO. 35 PUBLISHED MONTHLY EXCEPT FEBRUARY, JULY AND DECEMBER BY WARREN PUBLISHING CO. EDITORIAL SUBSCRIPTION & BUSINESS OFFICES AT 145 EAST 32ND STREET, N.Y. 10016. TELEPHONE: (212) 683-4000

SUBSCRIPTIONS: 4 ISSUES FOR \$10.00 IN THE U.S., CANADA AND ELSEWHERE \$12.00

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VAMPIRELLA

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AUGUST 1974

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"Get daring! Publish something for everybody!"

Another great issue of VAMPIRELLA. Dwelling only on the lady herself, I must congratulate Flaaxman Loew on a coherent and humorous script. It even had a plot for a change, unlike the last half-dozen or so Vampire yarns. Jose Gonzalez is no slouch either particularly the drawing technique on page 9, panel 5. How about a full story employing it?



LARRY BRNHAY
W. Lafayette, Ind.

VAMPIRELLA #33 wasn't your best, but you can't top yourself all the time. Quality has definitely not declined, though.

What is all this dissent over Vamp's artist? Jose Gonzalez did a fantastic job on "The Sultana's Revenge." It had a better story than usual by Flaaxman Loew, also.

"Childhood Haunt" presented the sarcasm of Partha very well. And having her show pain at the end because of her actions, was very good.

I also appreciated the job done by Jeff Jones and Berni Wrightson on the inside covers. But the best thing about the book was Jack Butterworth and Rich Corben's "Top to Bottom." Excellent, excellent, excellent!



BLACKLIGHT
W. Springfield, Mass.

Thanks, thanks, thanks.

VAMPIRELLA #33 was a lot better than #32. The cover was another striking. Enrich offering. Sometimes though Enrich can turn out a dud such as the cover of #32.

Jeff Jones again? You are spoiling me! More Jeff Jones! And this issue, there was the addition of Berni Wrightson's Fantastic. More! More!

The Jose Gonzalez art this ish was some of his best, which is superior, anyway. The story by Flaaxman Loew was great, particularly the shock ending. Very EC-like.

Adolfo Abellan did a pretty good job on "Barty." I didn't even read "No. 37 is Missing" because it looked so bad. The Partha tale was excellent as usual. Steve Scaife is a fine writer, don't lose him.

Finally, I'd like to say that Bill DuBay is a great editor and writer both! And, Vampirella, I love you. But doesn't everyone?



ANTHONY DALEY
Chicago, Ill.

Well, sometimes, Tony, I wonder about CREEPY and Eerie.

Which artist of the Warren clan is unable to accomplish the difficult task of drawing straight panels, imbues his art with a lack of perspective, fills backgrounds with hastily sketched subjects which lack finesse and has a total disregard for fine detail? Jose Gonzalez, of course. This man's low regard for artistic pride is constantly in painful evidence each issue. As of VAMPIRELLA #33, Gonzalez shows no sign of changing his sloppy habits. One begins to wonder if any other artists want to draw the Vampire strip, or whether Gonzalez has some unfortunate special hood over the editors who allow him to mismanage what might be the finest of Warren's series.

As for other remarks about this issue, Flaaxman Loew wrote an especially interesting story, which is an improvement. The Partha series is still on the upswing, but how long will readers really care about her origin? Rich Corben was somewhat messy with his eye-pounding colors. "No. 37 is Missing" should really have been missing from the issue. "Barty" was purely average.



ROMAN GORSKI
Perth Amboy, N.J.

Which sounds almost like PRAISE after the rest of your letter, Roman. You're entitled to your opinion, but most readers react far differently to Jose Gonzalez's art.

Most of your readers (judging from the letter columns of recent issues) would prefer to see Adam Van Helging and his father return to the VAMPIRELLA series. Here is one vote against.

The Van Helings represent a line of development which, though once interesting, had become more and more limiting. In my opinion, the recent innovations in the series have more than made up for the alleged damage done by dropping the Van Helings.

First and most important has been the lightning of Vamp's personality. She is now subtler, more sophisticated, a bit cooler than before. During the Van Heling era, the reader's eyes often treated to page after page of Vamp fawning sorry for herself.

Hopefully, this has all changed. She seems to have at last accepted herself for what she is, and her whole outlook has improved. Not only does she smile more, but she has even acquired a slight streak of hedonism that finds expression in a taste for elegance and creature comforts. I get the impression Drakulon is a somewhat Spartan place.

If an attractive man comes around, VAMPIRELLA is more than willing to explore the possibilities. All this serves to counteract the (hopeful) my wrong impression that Vampirella is a super-heroine whose mission is to destroy the forces of evil. Despite the parts that constantly tell her, she is basically just a healthy young vampiress out to enjoy life.

Another innovation in the last two issues is one which, I hope, will be developed in the future. I'm speaking of the blood-substitute serum Vamp takes. It will satisfy only her physical need for blood. Her bloodlust is a completely independent appetite, ever-present. It will reassert itself whenever she is subjected to extreme stress. If she is angry or frightened enough, she may attack anyone—friend or enemy, lover or stranger. The story possibilities here are endless.

To conclude on a different note, the subject of a VAMPIRELLA movie. Comics characters in film have a melancholy history. There was the awful Prince Valiant movie, for instance. And on TV, the silly Batman and the dull Steve Canyon. The most recent perpetration, Wonder Woman, was a textbook of what not to do. If a Vamp movie or TV series is ever made, do it better than those.

BRIAN CADEN
Cincinnati, Ohio

I just bought issue #33 of your fantastic magazine. Of all the comics and magazines I've bought, I've never written a letter to the editors. But yours is so great I can never wait till it comes to my newsstand. And I don't even mind spending a dollar for it.

I loved the art in "The Sultana's Revenge!" Jose Gonzalez is fantastic! Also, the story, "Top to Bottom," by Jack Butterworth was very interesting. But my favorite story in every issue is always the lead feature, with VAMPIRELLA! If she ever starts thinking about settling down, give her my address.



SCOTT ALJIM
Hackensack, N.J.

That's sweet, Scott, but I'm looking forward to quite a few more adventures before I even THINK about that.

Like all the others, VAMPIRELLA was great. Keep the color stories going. I buy your magazine every chance I get. CREEPY & EERIE are okay, but I like yours better. Count me as your number one fan!



TODD NEED
Jay, Pa.



We've grown used to fine single-out artwork on certain STORIES for praise, but several readers were lavish with raves over this particular PANEL, a wash rendering by Vamp's regular, Jose Gonzalez, for "The Sultana's Revenge."

"Quality has not declined!"

This is probably a little late, but I am writing it now because the more I think about it, the madder I get. I am referring to Roman Goral and Richard Mayhew's letters in issue #31. I am 26 years old and read your magazines. For me, there is no other artist for the VAMPIRELLA series EXCEPT Jose Gonzalez. Those two nitwits know nothing about fine art!

SGT. M.A. JOHNSON
Olathe AFB, N.M.

Jose Gonzalez is the only artist for the VAMPIRELLA series and his work is practically the only reason I buy the magazine. Your other artists are interesting, but that's all. As in *Clash of the Titans* magazine in issue #33 for Rich Corben to take over the series, it would be disastrous. I don't care to see Vampi looking like a mirror-image freak.

I would like to see more Vampi collectibles, too, but only if they're good quality. The safest bet to start with would be mini-sized posters and stickers. Most of your readers probably have several times more posters, pictures, etc., than they have wall space to display them, and should welcome smaller items. I would especially like to see regular-sized reprints of Enrich covers without logo and overprinting.

Finally, if Vampi ever comes to films, don't use anyone like Raquel Welch. I rather like Mia Farrow, but she does not look like anyone's VAMPIRELLA to me. And if I saw her as Vampi, I'd be thrilled. "That's Raquel Welch!" all through the picture. Besides, her voice is all wrong. It's best to go with lesser-knowns, especially when super-people are concerned.

ARLENE LO
Plumrose, N.Y.



You make some very interesting points, Arlene.... But how do you KNOW my voice isn't like Raquel's?

Best artist in issue #33: Jose Gonzalez. In spite of recent letters suggesting replacing Gonzalez, I can't agree. His art is much more beautiful than even *Isidro Mares*, and has a great style of its own.

Will Frank Frazetta or Jeff Jones do any inside stories? They are both masters.

All the Warren magazines are fantastic. I really look forward to them.

JACK DINAN
Dennisport, Mass.

Congratulations on being number one in the field of black and white comics, and for introducing quality color. This is nice. But there is always room for improvement.

I have not missed an issue of VAMPIRELLA, CREEPY, or EERIE, and now, THE SPIRIT, for a little over a year. I have also acquired many of the earlier issues. I have been a comic book and fanzine collector for about seven years now, and I buy comics and related media for the illustration. Frazetta, Mearlo, Torrens, Newry, Mao, Gonzalez, Fernandez, Enrich, and Sanjullian are the reasons I buy your books. Rich Corben too.

I would like to see a Warren science-fiction magazine. I've been told that *S-F* doesn't sell and horror does. This is logical because if it were not so, Jim Warren would be publishing three *S-F* books. I can't say what I think would sell and what wouldn't, I don't see sales figures. However, if Warren listens to opinions of readers, (and he seems to want to know them) then this individual gets a plus for variety.

It amazes me how many variations on an idea you guys can produce. Personally, I'm tired of werewolves, nymphs, vampires, zombies, witches, psychos, and the traditional supernatural ideas in general. They have been beaten to death.

Get daring! Publish something for everybody. Touch new horizons. Let's have more pure fantasy. Science-fiction and Sword and Sorcery ideas can be done only so often too, but pique them around. Jeff Jones does some wild things. Turn free and your other artists loose!

I appeal to you because your company is among the most progressive in the medium of comics in America. Do it for art's sake.

Rich Corben did a graphic story in an underground comic book called ANOMALY a couple of years ago entitled, "An Encounter at War." I'd really like to see something like that in color.

Incidentally, I really like the last two stories Jack Butterworth did in conjunction with Corben, ("Top to Bottom" and "Wizard Wagstaff"). I also liked seeing Jeff Jones' work in color in VAMPIRELLA #32.

Please never sacrifice quality to keep the price down. Warren magazines are a bargain for a dollar because there's nothing like them... anywhere!

KEN MACKLIN
Cotuit, Calif.

NEXT ISSUE:

MORE COLOR THAN EVER BEFORE!

In VAMPIRELLA #36, we're bringing you not ONE, but TWO of the beautifully crafted full color sections that have made WARREN MAGAZINES the talk of the comics world!



#1 Ferencso Ferencso festoons a haunting study of lurking horror entwined with childish resentment!



#2 Jose Ace masterminds a macabre saga of strange obsessions and violent, monstrous vengeance!

VAMPI NEEDS SOME TLC

Tender loving care? Well, that too. But we're talking about the letters column. Send yours to:

SCARLETT LETTERS
c/o Warren Publishing Co.
145 E. 32nd St.
New York, N.Y. 10016



VAMPIRE'S VILLAIN

A HAUNTED HISTORY OF VINCENTE ALCAZAR THE OFFICER-TURNED ARTIST



land. After putting in the requisite of several years as a starving struggling artist, Vicente got his first job: illustrating war comics for Playboy. And, he admits, "when I had killed the stars like army anti-handily many times over, I knew it was time to change."

So it was he began working on magazines like THE SAINT, STAR TREK, and others. Additionally, he did illustrations for science fiction books.

Vicente Alcazar is a dedicated professional. Although he lives in the treacherous wilds of Maracibo, Venezuela, Vicente actually flies to the even more treacherous wilds of New York City to deliver each and every job he does for Warren Publishing.

But Vicente is used to traveling. He was born in Madrid, Spain, in the tumultuous year of 1944. And at the age of 14, he remembers following the family tradition "I was sent to Military School." And Vicente was well on his way to being a full-fledged Naval officer. But after a year of training, the once-and-future artist left the armed forces to study art in Eng-

Looking to diversify, Vicente headed for France where he drew comics about espionage and spies. But still he wasn't completely satisfied. So he grabbed his portfolio and made for New York. There, he showed his work to Bill De Baywho, Vicente notes, "told me that I would have a beautiful future as a bus driver." Undaunted, however, Vicente became a part of the Warren staff, and now draws for the CREEPY magazine regularly.

His words to many admirers? "My only wish is that you like my work. I love you all."



One of the many exciting strips drawn by the multi-talented Vicente Alcazar was the EERIE series "Schreck," featuring a futuristic hero.

VARIATION ON A THEME

If you follow our letters page, you've noticed much comment about Jose Gonzalez, our VAMPIRELLA artist, most of it testifying to his being the "only artist suitable for Vampi!" And we'd be pretty inclined to go along with that. Since his debut in VAMPIRELLA #12, Jose has excitedly stamped our lovely lady from Drakelon and her supporting crew with his very distinctive and personal style. Only once at all that time has anyone else had a hand in the art, and it met with more than a few howls of dismay from rapid Vampi fans.

This issue finds us somewhat steeled for another onslaught. But if probably isn't going to come, thanks to a gentleman named Jose Ortiz. For this episode and the next, he is handing the art to give Mr. Gonzalez some well-earned vacation time. Mr. G. is the proverbial "impossible act to follow," but Jose Ortiz did a fine job of maintaining the necessary character and flavor, while imparting his own style. The result is a thoughtful variation, not a slavish imitation. . . And we're betting you'll be pleased with the results.

So, next issue, another tale by Mr. Ortiz, and then, in VAMPIRELLA #37, Jose Gonzalez returns. . . and in full color, yet! Stick with us!

1974 NEW YORK COMIC ART CONVENTION JULY 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 HOTEL COMMODORE



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VAMPIRELLA

COSMOSCENI OF THE DRACULONNE SAGA WILL NOT NEED TO BE REMINDED OF THE DETAILS OF THE ADORABLE VAMPIRELLA'S LIFE-STYLE. HOW SHE HULLS FROM THE VAMPIRE PLANET OF DRACULON, CAN ONLY LIVE AS A NORMAL WOMAN BY DRINKING **BLOOD-SUBSTITUTE** SERUM EVERY TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, AND SO FORTH.

A TOUCHING DETAIL THAT MAY HAVE ESCAPED EVEN THE MOST PERCEPTIVE OF VAMPIRELLA'S FANS IS THE **DEDICATION** WITH WHICH THE **DELICIOUS DRACULONNE** TRIES TO KICK THE BLOOD-SUCKING HABIT....

THE POOR DARLING **WANTS** TO BE ACCEPTED AS ONE OF US. FOR THIS REASON, SHE STICKS TO HER BLOOD-SUBSTITUTE, TURNS AN HONEST **BLACK AS ASSISTANT** TO ILLUSION ST-EXTRAORDINARY PENDORSON, AND GENERALLY WORKS HARD ON THE PROBLEMS OF KEEPING OUT OF TROUBLE. AND IT ISN'T **EASY** NOT WHEN YOU'RE A LADY-VAMPIRE WITH A **POTENTIAL INTAKE** OF AROUND **3 PINTS** PER DISH. /

SMALL WONDER THAT VAMPIRELLA NEARLY TOUCHES THE EDGES OF **BLACK DESPAIR** WHEN SHE GETS MIXED UP WITH AND MISTAKEN FOR...

THE BLOOD-GULPER

BE STRONG, MY DEAR! ONCE THE BRAIN IS REMOVED, THERE WILL BE NO MORE PAIN!



A MAN AND WIFE RETURNING HOME LATE AT NIGHT FIND A BODY IN THE GUTTER.

THE EYES STARING, THE FLESH PAPER-WHITE AND DRAWN OF ALL ITS LIFE-GIVING BLOOD; THE THROAT PUNCTURED BY THREE FANG-MARKS AT THE JUGULAR!

EEEEEEK!

OH, MY GAWD!

EEEEHHH!

IT'S THE WORK OF THE BLOOD-GULPER!

THE BLOOD-GULPER'S STRUCK AGAIN!

THE NEWS HITS THE MORNING HEADLINES... AND REMBRANDT MAKES AN *OBSCURE* ALLUSION THAT SPOKE WAMPYRELLAS THAT SPOKE WAMPYRELLAS NERVE-ENDS...

FOR THE LAST TIME, I AM NOT THE BLOOD-GULPER!

MY DEAR WAMPY...

WHY BOTHER TO TRY TO OFFEND AN OLD AND UNDERSTANDING FRIEND? LET'S FACE IT, HONEY... THIS CHARMING METROPOLIS IS NOT HEAVILY POPULATED WITH WAMPYRES... NOT IN THE *LITERAL* SENSE! I WOULD ESTIMATE THAT THE LIKELIHOOD OF THERE BEING EVEN ONE OTHER OF YOUR PERSUASION IN ALL NEW YORK IS JUST ABOUT *NIL*!



THAT NIGHT, THE BLOOD-GULPER STRIKES AGAIN. HOWEVER, ON THIS OCCASION, THE READER IS PRIVILEGED TO WITNESS THE *MODUS OPERANDI*...



HOLD HIM STEADY, KARL, WHILE I ATTACH THE TANGLES!

AAAAH... NO... NOOOO!

MINUTES LATER, THE VICTIM IS DRAWED!



THAT'S ABOUT IT, KARL!

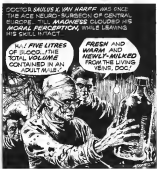
EVERY LAST DROP, HUSBY!

AND THIS TIME IT WILL WORK, VAN HARTF!

IT WILL WORK, *AMTINK!* THE ASSEMBLED TISSUES HAVE BEEN FIVE TIMES NOURISHED BY TOTAL TRANSFUSIONS. THIS TIME, HE WILL RISE AS A LIVING, BREATHING, THINKING... *SEMI-RUMM!*



THE DELIVERY VAN THEN PROCEEDS, WITH ITS GRUESOME BURDEN, TO A DARK HOUSE IN A SILENT STREET.



WELL, FIVE LITRES OF BLOOD... THE TOTAL VOLUME CONTAINED IN AN ADULT VEIN?

FRESH AND WARM AND NEWLY-BLENDED FROM THE LIVING VEINS, DOC!

MR. HARRP'S COMPANION IS THE INTERNATIONAL IMPRESSARIO MATTRACK, WHO DROVE TO THE WORLD SUCH GIANTS OF SHOW-BIZ AS SAMMY BLEECHER, "THE VOICE OF DELIGHT" (WHO DROPPED OUT OF THE SCENE IN RATHER CURIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES IN VENICE).

TO THINK THAT THIS FINE-LOOKING SPRING OF CONTEMPORARY YOUTH IS NO MORE THAN A HEAP OF FAHMAN SPARE-PARTS FROM A MORSLE!

AH, BUT WITH A COMPUTER FOR A BRAIN, MY DEAR H. MATTRACK / I HAVE TO CONCEDE THAT THE TECHNIQUES OF MICRO-ELECTRONICS GIVE ME SOME ADVANTAGE OVER SUCH EARLY PRACTITIONERS AS FRANKENSTEIN!

AND MY SEMI-WILDMAN POSSESSES ANOTHER INGREDIENT, DON'T FORGET! A SPARE PART THAT PUTS HIM IN A CLASS OF HIS OWN...
OF THE LARYNX OF SAMMY BLEECHER, CONTAINING THE FINEST SET OF VOCAL CHORDS THAT EVER WARBLED A BALLAD!



I LOST A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR INVESTMENT WHEN SAMMY WENT OUT OF HIS MIND! I THINK MY STARS TELL I MET YOU, MY FRIEND, AND THAT WE WERE ABLE TO TRACE THE SINGING LINE WARD THAT WAS ONCE THE GREATEST POP-LOVE ON EARTH... AND AVAL OURSELVES OF HIS LARYNX, BEFORE LAYING HIS TORTURED SOUL TO REST...

WHAT DID I TELL YOU MATTRACK? NOW HE LIVES!



I WILL MAKE HIM BIGGER THAN SAMMY BLEECHER! HIS METEORIC CAREER WILL END WHERE SAMMY'S LEFT OFF!

I HAD TO GIVE HIM THIS FRINGE OF HAIR, TO CONCEAL THE RATHER DISFIGURING LINE OF STITCHES. SUCH A PITY!



YOU ARE TOO MUCH OF A PERFECTIONIST, MY DEAR MR. HARRP! THE FRINGE IS CUTE / SOON EVERYONE WILL BE WEARING HIS HAIR IN A FRINGE!

THE NEWS IS OUT BY MORNING.



DARN YOU, PENELOPE! I TELL YOU IT WASN'T ME!

IT'S ALWAYS A TRAGEDY WHEN BELOVED FRIENDS FALL OUT OVER SOME STUPID MISUNDERSTANDING...

YOUR PROTESTATIONS, MY DEAR VAMP, MERELY SERVE TO HEIGHTEN MY *ONICISM*! AND *ONICISM* IS A *3AIC* FORM OF INTELLECTUAL DANDYSIM THAT I REALLY CAN'T AFFORD!

YOU... DON'T BELIEVE... ME!

IT IS THE SOVEREIGN OF OUR HUMAN STATE. M'DEAR, YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY NOT TO SHARE IT. FORSAKEN BELIEFS, LOST CAUSES, *3AIC*-IMPOSSIBLE LOYALTIES.

YOU OBSTINATE...

...INEBRIATED...

H-WERCK!

...OLD FOSSIL!

DON'T LOOK TO ME FOR SUPPORT ANY LONGER. FROM HERE ON, I'M GOING SOLD. THE ACT'S FINISHED AS FAR AS YOU'RE CONCERNED. FROM HERE ON, I'M GOING TO BE A STAR WHO SWIMS ALONE.

THE DELICIOUS
OBANAIKONNE PLAYS
A TOP CABARET SPOT
THAT NIGHT...
SOLO.



LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN... I WILL
NOW DISAPPEAR AND
THEN REAPPEAR AS...
A VAMPIRE BAT!

YOU WILL
LOVE EVERY
MOMENT OF
IT!

SHE IS A SENSATION!
IN THE WEEKS THAT
FOLLOW, SHE CONTINUES
TO BE A SENSATION!



ENCORE!
DO IT AGAIN,
VAMPIRE!

YOU ARE TOO,
TOO KIND MY
DARLINGS... AND I
LOVE YOU ALL!



WELL, WITH SOME
FROM STRENGTH TO
STRENGTH, PENDING GOES
FROM BAR TO BAR!

SHAL... DO I
EVER TELL WA
'BOUT THE TIME
I SCORNED THE
FAIREST FLOWER
OF ALL WOMANHOOD
AN-AY WAS CAST
DOWN... LIKE
LOOSH-LUCIFER...
FROM THE
STARRY
HEAVENS?

NO
GUD, BUT
IT MUSTA
BEEN ONE
NELLOW
PARTY!

BY ABOUT THIS TIME HE
LAUNCHED THE POP-RAVE OF
THE DECADE / THE NEW VOICE
OF DELIGHT!

... DEVASTATOR !!

IF I WANT
IT ALL, BABY...
THE MOON I'VE
GOT, THE SUN
COMES 6
LATER.



IT IS A TRIUMPH FOR DEVASTATOR'S
ILL-ASSORTED BEGETTERS...

OF COURSE, MY
DEAR HATRACK
HE WILL CONTINUE
TO REQUIRE FIVE
LITRES OF
FRESH BLOOD
DAILY!

SOME
VAMPIRE!



DEVASTATOR'S THIRST IS PROBABLY
AT THE COST OF ONE HUMAN LIFE!



THE GUEST OF DEVASTATOR TRIASCENDS
ANYTHING TO HIT SHOW-BIZ SINCE SALOME
DANCED FOR HEROD.



THE INEVITABLE HAPPENS -
THE PATH OF THE SEMI-
WOMAN CROSSES THAT OF
THE GIRL OF DRAGONAGE!
NATE ORIGINATES IT!

DEVASTATOR
AND HIS
MASTERS
ARE WATCHING
FROM THE
WINGS THAT
NIGHT...

YOU ARE
TOO, TOO KIND
DARLING, AND
I LOVE YOU
ALL!



AT THE END OF THE SHOW, DEVASTATOR INSISTS THAT WAMPIRELLA TAKE A LAST BOW WITH HIM.



SOMETHING ABOUT HIM FASCINATES ME! WHAT CAN IT BE?



HE CARRIES AN AURA WITH HIM... A SUBTLE OOR... YET ROUND... RYCK... SPLENDIDLY APPETIZING!

DEVASTATOR IS FINE.



I WANT HER! I WANT WAMPYRELLA! FOR MY OWN! NOW AND FOREVER!

AND YOU SHALL HAVE HER, MY DEAR BOY... I PROMISE YOU!

HOW CAN THIS BE? THE GIRL WILL SCARCELY TAKE HIM FOR HER LOVER OF HER OWN FREE WILL... NOT WHEN CLOSE ACQUAINTANCE REVEALS TO HER THAT HE IS CUSTOM-BUILT!



ONLY HER MIND CAN TELL HER THIS! SO YOU, MY FRIEND, MUST REMOVE HER BRAIN AND REPLACE IT WITH A COMPUTER... LIKE THAT OF DEVASTATOR!



COMBINE THE NIGHT OF DEVASTATOR'S JAGGED
WORLD-WIDE T.V. HOOK-UP TO BE RELAYED FROM
THE STAGE AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN...

TONIGHT, WHEN YOU GET
HOME AFTER THE SHOW,
THERE'LL BE A LITTLE
SURPRISE FOR YOU... A
DELICIOUS PARCEL
OF GIFT-WRAPPED
GOODIES!

WAMPPIRELLA!

RIGHT?

WAMPPIRELLA IS PURSUED IN
THE DARK STREETS...



WELCOME TO THE
INSANITARY OPERATING
THEATRE OF DOCTOR
SALVUS X. VAN HAREN

...OVERPOWERED...

MMMMMM...



BLOOD... WAMP'S EYES ARE
DRAWN TO THE BOTTLE SUSPENDED
ABOVE HER.

PREPARE YOU
FOR A MARRIAGE
OF TRUE MINDS, MY
DEAR. THE PAIN WILL
SOON BE OVER AND YOU
WILL BECOME LIKE
DEVASTATOR! A SEMI-
WOMAN EXISTING
ON FIVE LITRES
OF BLOOD PER
DAY!

AND BOND'S
SUDDENLY
SWAP UNDER
DRAGLONNE
STRENGTH...

NOW I
KNOW WHAT
IT IS... THE
SUBTLE
ODOR... THAT
FIRST ATTRACTED
ME TO
DEVASTATOR!

WHAT...
WHAT ARE
YOU GOING
TO DO TO
ME?



THEN... TRANSFORMATION!



THE LOVELY DRAKULONNE ARISES FROM THE TABLE
IN HER PERSONA OF **KAMARZPAT**, AND GORGES
HERSELF ON THE LIFE BLOOD OF THE MAD SURGEON!

... AND OTHERS!



SOON, THERE IS NOT A
DROP OF BLOOD IN
THE PLACE!



THE MAWMOOTH, WORLD-WIDE T.V. SPECTACULAR IS DRAWING TO ITS CLIMAX! FROM NEW YORK TO ALBUQUEEN, FROM THE BRONX TO BUENOS AIRES, *THE NEW VOICE OF DELIGHT* MAKES ITS DEFINITIVE STATEMENT OF *ULTIMATE DECADENCE!*



HATRACK SMILES, WELL PLEASED.



AND THEN...



AN ESTIMATED 500-MILLION PEOPLE SEE THE WAMPYRE BAT FLY DOWN THE LENGTH OF THE CONCERT HALL TOWARDS THE EXPOSED THROAT OF THE HALF-HUMAN CALLED DEVASTATOR /



BLOOD-DRAINED, THE THING THAT WAS CALLED DEWASTATOR COLLAPSES AS IT STANDS!

BEFORE THE RIVETTED GAZE OF THE WATCHING MILLIONS, IT RETURNS TO THE HEAP OF HUMAN REMAINS AND ELECTRONICS FROM WHICH IT WAS CONSTRUCTED!



HATRACK SIMPLY GOES MAD AND AT THE SIGHT A LIFE-TIME OF RESTRAINT AWAYS THE FORMER INTERNATIONAL IMPRESARIO.

HEH,
HEH,
HEH



WAMPRELLA SEEKS OUT POOR, OLD PENDRAGON, WHO, BY NOW, HAS SUNK JUST ABOUT AS FAR AS HE CAN GO...

WE ARE ALL OF US EYING IN THE GUTTER, BUT SOME OF US... AND I FOR ONE, WAMPY ARE LOOKING UP AT THE STARS!



PENDY DARLING,
I'VE COME TO TAKE
YOU HOME.

END

RELATIVES!



WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND IS WHY YOU'RE HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE!

YOU SAY YOU HAVE AN HONEST RELIGIOUS CONVICTION THAT THE EXPEDITION /SAY/' GOING TO FIND ANY INTELLIGENT LIFE/ SO WHY ARE YOU WASTING YOUR TIME?

YOU'RE TWISTING MY WORDS PAUL...

...I SAID I *DOUBT* WE'LL FIND ANY INTELLIGENT LIFE/ I'M CONVINCED THAT IF WE DO, IT WILL BE THE IMAGE OF GOD... *HUMANOID.*

WHAT ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENT? YOU'RE A SCIENTIST, CLIFF?



"SCIENTIST" IS NOT THE ANTONYM OF "CHRISTIAN." NO MORE THAN "CHRISTIAN" IS THE SYNONYM OF "CHILD." SO DON'T PATRONIZE ME. I CARRY ENVIRONMENTAL ADAPTATION...



... I SIMPLY *INSIST* THAT IF THE ENVIRONMENT IS NOT SUPPORTIVE OF HUMANITY, IT IS NOT SUPPORTIVE OF INTELLIGENCE.





YOU SEE, I
DISTINGUISH
BETWEEN
ANIMAL AND
MAN.

MAN IS THE
ONLY CREATURE
ABLE TO BELIEVE
IN INTANGIBLES
AND ACT ON
FAITH.

THAT MAKES
MAN UNIQUE...
IF NOT TO EARTH,
THEN TO THE
UNIVERSE!



WELL, I HATE TO
DISAPPOINT YOU,
BUT I'M ONE MAN
WHO DOESN'T
BELIEVE IN THINGS
HE CAN'T SEE.

WHAT
ABOUT
ATOMS?



CIMON CLIFF/
THERE'S EMPIRICAL
EVIDENCE OF ATOMIC
STRUCTURE.

...WHICH YOU ACCEPT
ON FAITH, PAUL,
BECAUSE THAT EVIDENCE
IS REALLY NO MORE SOLID
THAN THE TESTIMONY OF
SOMEONE WHO'S HAD A
PROPER ANSWER.



ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT!
WE'VE GOT A PLANET TO
EXPLORE! MAYBE WE'LL
FIND SOME ANSWERS
HERE!



I'LL BE AMAZED IF
WE FIND ANYTHINGS
THOUGH, LET ALONE.

LOOK!



I SEE IT!
WHAT...?

IT LOOKS TO BE SOME
SPECIES OF ROOTLESS
VEGETATION, AND FROM ITS
EASE OF MOVEMENT, I'D JUDGE
THE MUSCULATURE TO BE
QUITE SOPHISTICATED.

SO IT WOULD
APPEAR.

WELL, THERE YOU MAKE IT
CLIFFORD... A TEXT-BOOK
EXAMPLE OF EVOLUTIONARY
ADJUSTMENT... PLANTS WHICH
HAVE DEVELOPED MOBILITY
TO SEARCH OUT MOISTURE
IN A BARRENED LANDSCAPE.

YOU'RE RE-ARGUING
POINTS YOU'VE ALREADY
HEARD. SHOW ME
SOMETHING BESIDES
HANDLESS INSTINCT
AND I'LL BE
IMPRESSED.

I DON'T KNOW
ABOUT THAT, BUT
IS OR IS NOT THAT
THING WEARING
CLOTHES?

WHAT...?



SHOW ME
A SOUL.



NICE TRY! BUT
THAT'S ALMOST
CERTAINLY NATURAL
HEARING AND
YOU KNOW IT.

PERHAPS, BUT SINCE I
DON'T SEE ANY EXTRA-
TERRESTRIAL SAINT
AUGUSTINE NEARBY,
WAITING TO ENGAGE YOU
IN DISCUSSION OF YOUR
MUTUAL DRETT..



...LET'S FOLLOW
OUR FRIEND! HE'S
MOVING OFF.



IT'S A... A SETTLEMENT OF THEM! AND THOSE STRUCTURES... THE SOPHISTICATION! BY GOD, THEY ARE INTELLIGENT!

O-OUT... THIS IS CRAZY, IT CAN'T BE!



LOOK... AN UNINITIATED VISITOR TO EARTH MIGHT THINK THE CREAS INTELLIGENT... JUDGING BY HIS SHELL... WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL HERE.

CAREFUL, Y' GOOD LORD, MAN! YOUR PREJUDICES ARE BEHAVING YOU! THEY'RE USING TOOLS DOWN THERE... TO BUILD, TO COOK!



SO WHAT? IF EGYPTIAN VULTURES, BARBONS... ALL USE TOOLS!

NATURAL OBJECTS, CLIFF NOT MANUFACTURED INFLUENTS.



NO! YOU ARE NOT CIVILIZED!

NOT THE WORK OF GOD!

CLIFF!!



CLIFF IS MADE BY GOD...



"PAUL AYLES, PERSONAL LOSS" IN THE WEEKS SINCE INITIAL CONTACT, REGULATION CONCEALED STUDY OF THE SUBJECTS HAS PRODUCED IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE OF A PRIMITIVE BUT RAPIDLY ADVANCING CIVILIZATION. THERE IS CAUSE FOR CONCERN OVER CLIFF, WHO CONTINUES TO WITHDRAW INTO HIS WORK, HIS FAITH IN A UNIVERSAL GOD IS VIRTUALLY SHATTERED...





YOU WERE *RIGHT!*
MORE RIGHT THAN I
COULD HAVE KNOWN!

NO... I
WAS WRONG!
MAY GOD
FORGIVE ME,
I'VE KILLED
ONE OF HIS
OWN!



SURELY I'LL UNDERSTAND YOU THOUGHT THE CREATURE WAS ATTACKING YOU.

DANIEL COULD HAVE CHOSEN TO THINK THE SAME OF THE LIONS.

YOU, AT LEAST SPEAK AS THOUGH YOU FINALLY BELIEVE, PAUL... A SMALL VICTORY.



I CAN'T DENY THE TESTIMONY OF MY OWN SENSES!

LISTEN! YOU COME ON THE TUBE ROOM.

DO YOU COME TO US IN PEACE, IN THE NAME OF THE LORD?

NO!!

YES!!



ZAP.

AIEEE!! FLEE! IT IS THE DEVIL! SATAN IS COME AMONGST US!



SATAN. SATAN!

OH MY GOD... WHAT HAVE I DONE? WHAT HAVE I DONE?

LOOK CLOSELY AT THIS GIRL—
SHE IS A WITCH AND HER
POWERS ARE GREAT IN
SERVICE OF THE DARK FORCES.
SHE LIVES IN MANY LINDS
AND MANY SEAS, SHE IS
ETERNAL. SHE IS...

FLEUR

MICKEY? IT'S
ME... FLEUR!

ARE YOU IN
HERE MICKEY? I
CAME LIKE YOU
ASKED.

OUR TARTS
WERE YOUNG AND GAY!

KEEP IT QUIET,
FLEUR! I'M RIGHT
BEHIND YOU.

EEK!!

FROM SPAIN OF
THE INQUISITION,
MAGIC POWER
WAS CARRIED
FLEUR TO
BOSTON OF
THE NINETEENTH
CENTURY...

TO A SOME-
WHAT SWIRLY
CONFERENCE
WITH A FRIEND
...AND WARLOCK!



HA/HA/HA! YOU SURE SCARED THE STUFFING OUT OF ME, MICKEY. WHY THE SILLY DISGUISE?

YOU WOULDN'T LAUGH IF YOU KNEW HOW HEAVENLY IN OUR DARK FORCES ARE IN THIS CITY! THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY I COULD SEE YOU WITHOUT BEING CAUGHT!



THEN YOU MUST HAVE CALLED ME FOR SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN SEX UNDER THE STARS!

YOU'RE A CLEVER GIRL, FLEUR... AND ANYBODY IN THIS CITY... THE ONLY PERSON WHO COULD DELIVER...



... THIS ENVELOPE WITHOUT AROUSING SUSPICION!



TAKE THE ENVELOPE AND STAND IN FRONT OF THE GIRL'S BOARDING HOUSE AT 2904 DOWLIN ST.

OUR CONTRACT WILL ASK YOU "WHAT'S A NICE GIRL LIKE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?" THEN YOU'LL GIVE HIM THE ENVELOPE.



SO, FOR SATAN'S SAKE, DON'T DO ANYTHING TO BRING ATTENTION TO YOURSELF! THE FATE OF OUR ENTIRE MOVEMENT IN THIS CITY DEPENDS ON YOU.

MICKEY ISN'T TOO CONCERNED WHERE HE SENDS INNOCENT YOUNG WYTHES. I HOPE MY CONTACT MAKES GOOD TIME.

THE RIVAL COMEN WE'RE WARRING WITH HAS GONE WILD... YOU OUGHT TO SEE THE MONSTER THEY SEND ONCE THEY'RE A LINE ON ANY OF US!



GIRL'S BOARDING HOUSE
2904

WELL NOW... HELLO THERE!



WANDA HAVE SOME FUN GIRLIE?

ARE YOU THE MAN I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR?



YOU DON'T NEED TO WAIT NO MORE, OL' MCCARTHY HERE'S GON TO SHOW YOU SOME REAL FUN!

WIL MR MCCARTHY, IF YOU'RE THE RIGHT MAN GIVE ME THE EDGE! WHAT WAS THE QUESTION YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO ASK?



WE DON'T NEED QUESTIONS, CLUZ I KNOW ALL THE ANSWERS... AN I'M GON' TA GIVE YA A FEW...

APPARENTLY THEN YOU'RE NOT THE PERSON I WAS TO HAVE FOR... SO THIS INVOLUNTARY LITTLE TRYST WILL COME TO AN...

...AND!

POOFT!



HOP NO ONE SAW THAT...

...AND THAT THE RIVAL CREW DOESN'T SENSE IT!

BRIBBLE



THIS AREA IS MORE DANGEROUS THAN I THOUGHT, IF I CAN'T USE MY MAGIC, I'LL BE LUCKY TO LIVE UNTIL MY CONTACT ARRIVES.

BRIBBLE

I'D BETTER GET OFF THE STREET! HOP MY CONTACT WILL HAVE ENOUGH BRAINS TO FIGURE I TOOK SHELTER IN THIS BOARDING HOUSE.

BRIBBLE



GIRLS' BOARDING HOUSE ROOM



THAT WAS A CLOSE CALL!



WHAT DO YOU WANT?

NOW WHAT?



PLEASE, MAMA, DON'T GIVE ME A FRIGHT LIKE THAT. I JUST WENT THROUGH A BAD EXPERIENCE.

WAS IT AT A COSTUME PARTY, DEARIE...? EVEN OUR GIRLS DON'T DRESS AS WILD AS THAT!



ER...YES! I WONDER... COULD... I... RENT A ROOM FOR THE NIGHT? I DON'T HAVE MUCH MONEY... BUT I COULD DO GOOD CHARITY AROUND THE HOUSE... MY NAME IS FLEUR...

NOT BAD! GOOD LEGS... AND SHE'S YOUNGER THAN WE USUALLY GET AROUND HERE. PUT HER TO WORK!

GOOD ENOUGH. MY NAME IS MRS. GRIMWATER, AND THAT IS MY HUSBAND. COME WITH ME.



GIRLS, GIRLS! GOOD NEWS! WE HAVE AN ADDITION TO OUR STAFF. HER NAME IS FLEUR, AND I'M SURE THAT YOU'LL ALL GET ALONG WITH HER. SHE'S NEW... SO TRY TO SHOW HER THE ROPES...



YOU JUST SIT HERE FOR AWHILE, FLEUR. GET ACQUAINTED WITH THE GIRLS.

YES, MAMA. YOU'RE VERY KIND!

WHAT DO YOU THINK SHE'LL WANT ME TO DO... COOK? I CAN COOK REAL GOOD! EVERYBODY IN THE COOK- MY CLUB... SAYS I'M THE BEST COOK AROUND.



CLARA! WE HAVE A HANDSOME GENTLEMAN FOR YOU TONIGHT.

OH LUCKY GIRL, CLARA, YOU'VE GOT A DATE!



STRAIGHT UPSTAIRS? THEY DIDN'T EVEN TAKE A CARRIAGE RIDE AROUND THE PARK.

MIND IF I MOVE OVER AND TAKE CLARA'S PLACE? IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT AN EXCITING GAME GOING.



CHECKMATE!



SWAPP!

IT DON'T ANY TO BE SMART AROUND HERE DISTER...!

DIANA!
SOMEONE TO SAMPLE
YOUR OPULENT
CHARMS.

**DON'T ROCK
THE BOAT! STAY CALM,
BE INVISIBLE!**

...DAYS
AHEAD?

**CAN'T CAUSE
TROUBLE! MUST
WAIT FOR MY
CONTACT.**

**PARDON THE INTERRUPTION, MRS.
GRIMWATER, BUT I'VE BEEN
HERE FOR THREE AGONES
WAITING FOR SOMETHING TO
DO TO AMPLY YOUR
GENEROUSITY.**

**DON'T YOU WORRY
ABOUT IT NOW,
FLEUR, YOU'LL
HAVE MANY OTHER
OPPORTUNITIES TO REPAY
US IN THE DAYS
AHEAD. TONIGHT
WAS A LITTLE
SLOW THAT'S ALL.**

...HMM...

**THAT'S THE BILL FOR
ROOM FIFTEEN! BUT WE
DIDN'T ASSIGN THAT ROOM
TO ANY OF THE GIRLS TONIGHT!
THERE SHOULDN'T BE
ANYONE THERE.**

**RADDOH! IS THERE
SOMEONE IN THERE? IF
SO, HOW DO YOU GET UP
HERE PAST US?**

**HAVE OWN
METHOD OF
ENTRY! WANT
GIRL!**

**HOW HE GOT
THERE WE CAN WORRY
ABOUT LATER, BUT IF
THERE'S A MAN IN THAT
ROOM WE CAN BREAK
FLEUR IN TONIGHT.**

**BREAK
ME IN...?**

...GIRL?



YOU HEARD THE GENTLEMAN, FLEUR, IF YOU GO!

BUT... BUT...

WHAT DID YOU THINK THE PLACE WAS... A BOARDING HOUSE?!

YES!

REMEMBER, FLEUR, OLD GIRL, DON'T ROCK THE BOAT. DON'T ATTRACT ATTENTION! AFTER ALL... WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT A ROLL IN THE--

--HEY! W-WHAT'S GOING ON...?!



MRS. GRIMWATER!!!



UH, I JUST REMEMBERED THAT I HAVE A SPLITTING HEADACHE! I'M AFRAID I WON'T BE ABLE TO DO ANY... AH... WORK TONIGHT.

IT'S BEEN A VERY NICE EVENING... MEETING ALL THE OTHER GIRL'S BOY FRIENDS AND SUCH, BUT I REALLY MUST BE GOING. I'LL SEND A POSTCARD FROM PARIS!

HOLD IT, LITTLE LADY! WE GOT YOU IN THIS HOUSE AND WE AIN'T LETTIN' YOU GO! YOU GOT A CUSTOMER UPSTAIRS AND WE DON'T WANT HIM MAKIN' ANY TROUBLE WITH THE LAW ON ACCOUNT OF BAD SERVICE!





FLEUR!
COME DOWN HERE
SOMEONE TO SEE
YOU!

OH THAT'S THE BOSS
CALLING! I'D BETTER GO
DOWN IMMEDIATELY!
SHE GETS VERY
IMPORTANT! I HOPE
YOU UNDERSTAND.

PANT!
DROOL!
SLIME!



THIS
IS THE MAN,
FLEUR!

WHY FLEUR...
WHAT'S A NICE GIRL
LIKE YOU DOING IN
A PLACE LIKE THIS?

IF
YOU ONLY
KNEW!



WE HAVEN'T
TIME TO DIDDLE,
FATHER. LET'S BE
GOING!

A VERY
GOOD BYE,
MY CHILD.



I NOTICED IN PASSING
THAT YOU HAVE A VERY
STRANGE NEIGHBORHOOD
HERE. JUST AS I WAS
WALKING UP YOUR STEPS
I SAW THE BIGGEST
PROB SITTING ON YOUR
FENCE!

WELL, GOOD
NIGHT... GOD BE
WITH YOU!



THANK HEAVEN
WE GOT RID OF HIM!
NO TELLING WHAT COULD
HAVE HAPPENED IF HE'D
HUNG AROUND. YOU
BETTER--

THE BILL!
YOU MEAN THAT MAN
IN IS HASN'T BEEN
SERVICED YET? BUT HOW
ARE WE GOING TO DO
IT? ALL OF THE GALS
ARE ON DUTY.



THERE'S ONLY
ONE ANSWER!
UP YOU GO!

ARE?
WHY ARE?

IF THIS MAN ISN'T TAKEN CARE OF, HE MIGHT GO TO THE POLICE AND WE'D END UP IN JAIL ANYWAY!

BUT I GUIT DOING THIS YEARS AGO. I'M IN NO SHAPE...

I AGREE WITH YOU THERE...

...BUT WE HAVEN'T CHOICE!

OPEN THIS DOOR! OPEN IT!

WELL, MAYBE IT WON'T BE SO BAD. I COULD ALWAYS USE A GOOD ROLL IN THE...

...HEY!! WHAT IN THE...

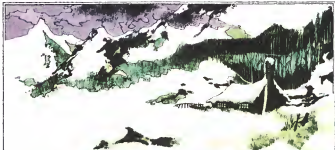
BOOOWW!

OOOHHH!

AND THE THING DISPATCHED BY THE WYVIL COVEN TO BREAK UNWARRANTABLE HORROR ON FLEUR... SETTLES DOWN TO MAKING DO!

THIS IS... GIRL? AH WELL... WE ALL HAVE TO MAKE SACRIFICES...!

END



AFTER LONG DAYS OF WIND-DRIVEN FURY, THE BLIZZARD IS OVER. THE TRAPPER'S CABIN CAN BE SEEN, AN ISOLATED DOT IN THE ENDLESS EXpanse OF SNOW-GLARE!

PURE AS SNOW

THE DEAD HORSE AND SNOW-COVERED WAGON SUGGEST THE POSSIBILITY OF LIFE INBDS!



...OR, MAYBE DEATH!



THOUGHTS OF LIFE AND DEATH INVADE AND HAUNT A YOUNG MAN... A **BOY** AS HE STANDS **BY THE WINDOW**, STARING AT THE **FANTASIES** IN THE COLD PANE OF GLASS!

HE IS HOUNDED BY **MEMORIES** OF THE GIRL WHO LIES **DEAD** ON THE FLOOR... THE GIRL HE LOVED!

HE CAUSES HER FATHER'S **ANGRY FACE** IN THE FROST, THREATENING HIM WITH SOME **GRIM** AND FINAL **PUNISHMENT!**

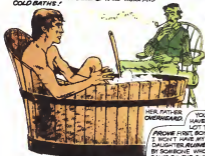
AND THIS MORNING, BEFORE HE DOES WHAT HE MUST, HE TRIES TO FIND AN **ANSWER!**

THE BOY GREW UP IN A SMALL FARMTOWN. IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE HE BEGAN TO FEEL THE FIRST STIRRINGS OF *DESIRE*.



HIS PARENTS WARNED HIM ABOUT SIN AND RESTRICTED HIS LIFE TO A RIGID SCHEDULE OF HARD WORK AND COLD BATHS!

HE MET THE GIRL IN CHURCH. THEY HAD SEEN EACH OTHER THERE EVERY SUNDAY SINCE THEY WERE KIDS!



HER FATHER OVERHEARD.

YOU HAVE A LOT TO PROVE FIRST, BOY! I WON'T HAVE MY DAUGHTER RUINED BY SOMEONE WHO CAN'T DO THE RIGHT THING BY HER!

THE GIRL'S SMILES MELTED HIS AWKWARDNESS!



FINALLY, HE PROPOSED!




NO MATTER WHAT HER FATHER SAID, THE BOY KNEW HE HAD TO SEE HER AGAIN!




IT WAS A WEEK LATER THAT THE BOY GOT HIS IDEA...

...TO ELOPE!




HE PROMISED THE GIRL HE WOULDN'T TOUCH HER UNTIL THEY WERE MARRIED.

IF YOU LAY A HAND ON HER I'LL KILL YOU!



IT WAS A CHILLY FALL. THEY BOTH HAD COUGHS. THEY JOKED ABOUT THE WAY THEY FELT UNTIL THEY ENTERED THE MOUNTAINS.



THE BLIZZARD CAME UP SO QUICKLY THAT BEFORE THEY KNEW IT THEY WERE FLOUNDERING, ALMOST DROWNING IN THE WIND-BLASTED SNOW.



THEY WANDERED FOR DAYS UNTIL THEY FOUND THE DESERTED CABIN.

SHIVERING AND DRENCHED WITH SNOW THE GIRL SUCCUMBERED TO PNEUMONIA. SHE DIED THAT FIRST NIGHT IN THE CABIN.



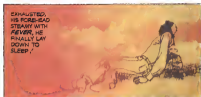
OH, NO! SUSAN, YOU CAN'T... YOU CAN'T...

THE BOY'S THOUGHTS **RAMBLED!** THE WIND OUTSIDE WAS LIKE A CHORUS OF ANGRY ACCUSERS! AND THE GIRL LAY BLENT, UNABLE TO **DEFEND** HIM!



SHE SEEMED MORE **REALISTIC** THAN BEFORE!

EXHAUSTED, HIS FORE-HEAD STEAMY WITH FEVER, HE FINALLY LAY DOWN TO SLEEP!



BUT THE SNOW SKITTERING AGAINST THE WINDOW KEPT HIM **AWAKE!** IN THE DWELLING FIRELIGHT HE COULD SEE HER BODY'S GREY FLICKERING **SHADOW** ON THE WALL! WAS SHE **MOVING?**



THEN, HE **SLEPT...** BUT SLEEP BROUGHT **NIGHTMARES!**

AT LAST HE CRAWLED ACROSS THE ROOM TO HER SIDE, DRAWN BY A MIXTURE OF **LOVELINESS, FEVER** AND **DESIRE!**



MY **DARLING...**

MURDERER! GET YOUR HOT FILTHY HANDS OFF HER!



WHEN HE AWOKE, **ANOTHER** NIGHTMARE **BEGAN!**



MY **GOD!**

WAS SHE ALIVE? HOPE DROVE HIM TO HER SIDE, ONLY TO COME CRASHING DOWN AGAIN AS HE TESTED HER FOR LIFE.



DEAD! BUT HOW... HOW DID SHE MOVE...?

SHE WASN'T AS HEAVY AS HE EXPECTED. COULD HE HAVE MOVED HER IN HIS SLEEP? OR WAS THIS ALL A FEVER DREAM?



OR WAS SHE REJECTING HIS ADVANCES AGAIN, THE WAY SHE ALWAYS HAD?



IT WAS STILL DARK OUT. HE RESOLVED TO PUT THE QUESTIONS ASIDE UNTIL MORNING.



HIS THOUGHTS CLEARED MOMENTARILY. TEARS STREAMING FROM HIS NARROWED EYES, HE DRAGGED THE GIRL'S BODY OUTSIDE. HE HAD TO KNOW...



THE STORM CONTINUED, THE NIGHTMARES CONTINUED, BUT HE SLEPT. AND WHEN HE AWOKE...



HE MADE SURE HE COULDN'T MOVE HER HIMSELF. HE WISHED HE COULD ANCHOR HIS MIND, AS HE ANCHORED HIS FEET AGAINST THE INEVITABLE FEVERISH NIGHTMARES!

AGAIN HE FELL INTO A DEEP PYRETIC SLEEP! FEINT SHUFFLING SOUNDS OF SOMETHING BEING DRASSED OUTSIDE, WOKE HIM!



FRANTICALLY HE UNTIED HIMSELF AND RAN TO THE DOOR! WERE THE KNOTS LOOSE? HE WOULD NEVER KNOW!

IT WAS NO USE! AFTER SNAPPING ITS REINS, THE HORSE HAD ONLY ENOUGH STRENGTH TO DRAG ITSELF TO THE CABIN, BEFORE COLLAPSING!

IT WAS FREEZING TO DEATH!



C'MON, BOY! GET UP!

FEELING TRAPPED, BLAMING HIMSELF FOR THE HORSE'S DEATH, THE BOY BACKED INTO THE CABIN, RECOGNIZING AS HE STEPPED ON SOMETHING SOFT!

AT THE SIGHT OF HER THE BOY SURRENDERED TO THE FEVER BUBBLING IN HIS MIND!



YOU'VE COME BACK! IT CAN'T BE!



WHEN I PUT YOU
OUTSIDE, YOU *MOVED*
AWAY!



WHEN I PUT YOU
OUTSIDE, YOU
CAME BACK!



YOU KNOW I
LOVE YOU AND YOU
WON'T LEAVE ME
ALONE!



WHAT DO YOU WANT
FROM ME? I'VE TOLD YOU
I LOVE YOU! I'VE DONE
THE BEST I COULD TO
TAKE CARE OF YOU!



I'M SORRY,
DARLINGS! I SHOULDN'T
HAVE SHOUTED AT
YOU! PLEASE STAY
CLOSE! I WON'T
HURT YOU!

THE NEXT MORNING THE STORM
WAS OVER, AND HIS LOVE HAD
RELEASSED HIM AGAIN!



OH, NO...
NO... NO...

HE WATCHED HER WHILE HE PUT ON HIS COAT. HE LOVED HER, BUT HE KNEW THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING HE COULD DO.

SICK, LIGHT-HEADED FROM HUNGER, HE WAS DETERMINED TO DO WHAT HE HAD TO... OR DNE!

THIS IS THE LAST PART OF OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER.



WE'LL FIND A PRIEST!

THEN YOU WON'T HAVE TO KEEP RUNNING FROM ME...!



WE'LL HAVE HIM MARRY US!



WE'LL FINALLY BE ABLE TO...

...SLEEP TOGETHER.





WHEN A CERTAIN
MIDWIFE LEARNED THE
TERRIBLE SECRET OF
THE SCHOOLMASTER'S
SISTER-SANDWICH WALTZ
SHE FLED IN FEARFUL
— WITH HER ONLY
CHILD!

THE NIGHT RAN RED WITH GORE

MAMA! MAMA!
HELP ME! DON'T
LET HIM HURT
ME!

THERE, THERE,
DEAR CHILD, I'LL
SOON TAKE CARE
OF YOU AND
EVERYTHING WILL
BE ALL RIGHT!



IT WAS IN APRIL OF 1857... IN THE PAIR-SIZED TOWN OF CULL, IN THE
C. SPATHIAN MOUNTAINS, THERE WAS SOMETHING FRIGHTFUL.
ABOUT 50-SCHOOLMASTER FRANK KAPOVLA'S HIDDEN KALLET THAT
ONLY ONE P. BENT, MASH, HORTZ, DISCOVERED...

I'LL GET YOU,
WITCH — AND I'LL
TAKE THAT CHILD
FROM YOU!



RUN, VERNA!
RUN UPSTAIRS,
MY BABY!

HURRY, MAMA!

RUN OUT TO THE BUGGY. I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU!

MAMA, I'M AFRAID! WILL I HAVE TO GO BACK TO MR. KAPOVA'S SCHOOL?

I'M AFRAID, TOO, VERNA. WE'RE GOING A LONG WAY FROM HERE!

F. KAPOVA
PRIVATE SCHOOL

MADGA HORTZA WAS UNWELLY THAT MISERABLE RAINY AFTERNOON, WHEN LITTLE VERNA FAILED TO COME OUT OF THE SCHOOLHOUSE WITH HER CLASS. YES, SHE SEARCHED FRANTICALLY WHEN SHE SAW THE SINGLE CLASSROOM WAS ABANDONED.

GET IN THE BUGGY, VERNA. YOU'LL BE SOAKING WET!

MADGA HORTZA THOUGHT ONLY OF HER DAUGHTER'S SAFETY AS SHE DROVE ACROSS MUDDY MOUNTAIN ROADS TOWARDS SUDARVEST. SEVERAL DAYS RIDE AWAY.

SLEEP, VERNA... HE WON'T FOLLOW US!

IN THIS FORBIDDING LAND OF BLOOD-HUNGRY VAMPIRES... HERE ONE WAS SUSPICIOUS OF EVERYONE ELSE... WHERE THAT INFECTIOUS BITE TURNED THE INNOCENT INTO NIGHT-PROWLING DEAD, A SPEAKINGLY GENTLE SCHOOLMASTER WOULD BE BEYOND ALL SUSPICION...

COEBER...! DID YOU SEE VERNA HORTZA MY PURL?

SHE RODE OFF TOWARDS THE MOUNTAIN ROAD WITH HER MOTHER, SCHOOLMASTER / BUT IT'S SO DANGEROUS IN THIS WEATHER...

COEBER

THEY'RE GONE! BUT THEY CAN'T ESCAPE ME... I'LL GET THEM BOTH!



HE'S GOING THE SAME WAY. HAS EVERYBODY GONE CRAZY?



HERE! YOUR MONEY IN ADVANCE, AND THIS IS IMPORTANT... A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH... YOU ARE NOT TO TELL ANYONE WE ARE HERE!

YOU HAVE MY PROMISE, MY DEAR! AND IF THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE I CAN DO FOR YOU...

THE MOTHER AND DAUGHTER WEARILY CLIMBED TO THEIR ROOM, WHERE LITTLE VERA SOON FELL INTO A DEEP SLEEPY SLUMP. LILY AWOKE.



I CAN'T SLEEP. I'M TERRIFIED MR. KAPOVLA WILL COME HERE AND...

S-SOMEONE'S OPENING THE DOOR! HE'S HERE! HOW COULD HE HAVE FOUND US SO FAST?



I'VE BEEN THINKING YOU'VE SAID ME NOTHING FOR MY SILENCE. YOU HAVE MONEY...?

OTHERWISE I'LL HAVE TO TELL WHOMEVER MAY ASK FOR YOU WHERE YOU ARE!

NO, PLEASE. I'LL... I CHOKED. ANYTHING YOU WANT?



LOVELY! GOLD IS MY FAVORITE COLOR!

I TAKE IT... BUT TELL NO ONE WE'RE HERE...



YOU'LL KEEP YOUR PROMISE...?

YOU HAVE MY WORD, MY DEAR!

LATER, JUST PAST MIDNIGHT, VERNA HEARD VOICES BELOW. SHE STEPPED OUT OF THE ROOM. GAMP VOICE FILLED HER WITH DREAD...

IS THERE A YOUNG WOMAN HERE WITH HER DAUGHTER... A NINE-YEAR-OLD?

SUCH INFORMATION IS CONFIDENTIAL, SIR... UNLESS YOU... ER...

HERE...! A HUNDRED KRONEN SHOULD OVERCOME YOUR SCRUPLES!

IF YOU SPEAK OF THE PRETTY BLONDE LADY AND HER DAUGHTER, THEY ARE ON THE NEXT FLOOR... ROOM 203!

MAMA!
WAKE UP MAMA!
MR. KAPOYLA IS
HERE, COMING
UPSTAIRS...

LOCK THE
DOOR, VERNA...
QUICKLY!

WASDA RE-INTICALLY KNOTTED SHEETS AND SPREADS TOGETHER... SHE HEARD THE STAIRS CREAK UNDER THE SCHOOLMASTER'S SLOW CAREFUL TREAD.

CAREFUL,
MY DEAR ONE.
I'LL HAVE TO SET
OUR HORSE
AND BUGGY!

DON'T LEAVE
ME MAMA...

CURSE THAT
WOMAN...! SHE'S
FLED AWAY WITH
THE GIRL!

DAMN
HER...! SHE'S
DRIVING MY
HORSE
OFF!

NEXT MORNING, HOURS AFTER FR. MZ. K. POLA RODE OFF ON A HORSE HE TOOK FROM THE STABLE BEHIND THE INN, THE CURK DISCOVERED HIS STAB WOUND... **DEAD!**

...AND AFTER THE MOTHER AND DAUGHTER FLED, I KNEW I'D MADE A MISTAKE OPENING THE DOOR FOR HIM. AT LEAST THEY GOT AWAY!

THAT'S MORE THAN YOU CAN SAY FOR THIS POOR FELLOW. I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DESTROY HIM.

NEVER MIND THE CHILD AND HER MOTHER. DESCRIBE THE MAN WHO WAS AFTER THEM!

IF YOU CAN IMAGINE WHAT A WAMPWE' LOOKS LIKE, YOU CAN PICTURE THAT MAN!

GO ON, APPROX. GET IT OVER WITH, DRIVE THAT SNAKE THROUGH HIS HEART!

YOU'LL HAVE TO DESCRIBE HIM BETTER THAN THAT!

FRANZ KAPCULA RODE THE FRESH HORSE AWAY. HE WAS SURE HE WAS **GAINING** ON HIS CHASER... UNTIL HE CAME TO A FORK IN THE UNRAVED HIGHWAY...

YOU SAW THEM IN THAT BUSHY? GOOD, WHICH FORK DID THEY TAKE?

THE FAR ONE, SIR, ABOUT AN HOUR AGO OR MORE...

AS SOON AS KAPCULA WAS OUT OF SIGHT, THE WAMPWE' WENT TO THE **BACK** OF HIS PARLORHOUSE.

I'M SURE THE MAN WAS THE WAMPWE' YOU DESCRIBED. YOU'LL GO FAR OUT OF HIS REACH IF YOU TAKE THE ROAD FORK NEAREST THIS HOUSE...! THAT DEVIL, LUSTING FOR A CHILD'S BLOOD...!

THANK YOU SO MUCH YOU'VE SAVED MY DAUGHTER...

WE'RE FREE OF HIM NOW, MY DEAREST. IN SUCH BEST THINGS WILL BE BETTER. IT'S A BIG CITY, VERNA... HE WON'T FIND US THERE!

KAPCULA'S ROAD CARRIED HIM HIGHER INTO THE MOUNTAIN, BUT WHEN HE BLANDED BY CHANCE DOWN INTO THE VALLEY

THEY TRIKED US! BUT MADAME HORTZA'S MYSTAKE IS THAT SHE NO DOUBT FEELS SAFE NOW...!



MARSA AND YERNA HORTZA WERE DESTINED TO BE INTERCEPTED BEFORE THEY COULD REACH BUDAPEST! THEY ARRIVED IN ANOTHER LARGE TRANSYLVANIAN TOWN... SOME LATE THE FOLLOWING DAY.

"POOR LITTLE GIRL! SHE'S HAD A LONG HARD RIDE! SLEPT THROUGH IT ALL, TOO, BUT I WISH STOP SOON...!"



"A GOOD MEAL, A HOT BATH, AND A WARM BED... I'LL FEEL LIKE A NEW PERSON!"



SHE SIGNED THE INN'S REGISTER, ASKED FOR HER HORSE AND BUGGY TO BE LOOKED AFTER, THEN WENT TO HER ROOM.

"HMM... THE ATTIC! NOT VERY COMFORTABLE, BUT IT'S A ROOM OVER OUR HEADS FOR THE NIGHT!"

"I'LL HAVE MY OWNER WHILE YERNA IS ASLEEP SHE CAN EAT LATER...!"



"THIS TIME I'LL GET THE GIRL...! THIS TIME I'LL BE VERY CAREFUL!"



"FIVE WORNEN NOW... FIVE LATER! YOU SEE TO IT THAT HIS CANNOT BE MOWED TONIGHT!"

"IT WON'T BE ABLE TO MOVE WITH A WHEEL OFF SIR... THOUGH I CAN'T IMAGINE WHO'D DO A THING LIKE THAT!"

WAGDA CAUGHT A FLEETING GLIMPSE OF FRANZ KAROVIC'S STAIRWIND AT HER FROM THE CORNER OF HER EYE.



GOD HELP US!
THAT DEVIL IS HERE!
I MUSTN'T LET ON
I SEE HIM!

SHE'S IN
THERE! HAVE
TO ACT
FAST...



TOP FLOOR...
413... THIS TIME
I'VE GOT LITTLE
VERNA, BUT
GOOD!

HER HEART POUNDING, PULSE THROBBING, WAGDA FORCED HERSELF TO WALK CALMLY FROM THE DINING ROOM. SHE PEEBED CAUTIOUSLY INTO THE LOBBY AS THE DOORCLAMSTER CLIMBED THE STAIRWAY.



MUST NOT
RUN... I MUST
BE VERY
CAREFUL!

NO ONE
CAN HELP ME...
I MUST DO THIS
ALONE...!



NOW...
NOW... AT...
LAST...!

IT WOULD DO
YOU NO GOOD TO
SCREAM, VERNA...
IT WILL BE OVER
QUICKLY!



W-H-O...
PLEASE?...
M-MAMA!

P-PLEASE
DON'T HURT
ME...

I DON'T WANT
TO, VERNA... BUT I
MUST!

MARCO HORTZA POUNCED LIKE A TIGRESS
DEFENDING HER YOUNG. IN A FLASH, HER
TWISTED, TIGHTLY-GRIPPED HE-DRUCE GAVE
DOWN IN FRONT OF FRANZ KAPOLKA'S FACE...

CUTTING OFF HIS
BREATH - SLOWLY
CHOKING HIM...

WHEN SHE
PALE SED THE
CLOTH, KAPOLKA
FELL FORWARD
WEAKENED,
FANNT, DROPPING
THE HAMMER
AND SPIKE
UNDER HIS
CLOAK!

THERE
DARLING...
DRINK!

DRINK HIS
BLOOD SO YOU
CAN LIVE
THROUGH
ANOTHER DAY!

YOU SURE,
MAMA NEVER LETS
YOU GO HUNGRY!
LAST NIGHT YOU
DRANK THE BLOOD
OF THE STABLEHAND
BACK IN GULL...

... TONIGHT
YOU DRINK FROM
THE VEINS OF A
VERY DANGEROUS
VAMPIRE
HUNTER!

HAVING DRAINED THE SCHOOLMASTER, DOK
TURNED GREEDILY TO HER, MOTHER.

HOW FOOLISH, MY
DEAR! WHO WOULD LOOK
AFTER YOU? IF YOU'RE
STILL HUNGRY, DRESS
AND WE'LL GO SEE WHO
ELSE WE CAN FIND!

A TOUCHING STORY OF MOTHERLY
LOVE... AND OF THE CASTARDY STALKER
DRINKING UP ALL THE BLOOD IN GULL. SWEET
VERNA REMINDS ME OF MYSELF AS A CHILD...

PROLOGUE

A GRIM TIME, THESE EARLY 1800s... THE DOGS OF WAR RUN RAMPANT IN EUROPE, THEIR HOWLING FURY LEAVING NO ONE UNTOUCHED, STRIKING GOOD AND EVIL, RICH AND POOR, SUNDERING FRIENDS, FAMILIES... AND LOVERS... LOVERS LIKE HANS AND EVA...

REMEMBER, DARLING, THEY PHYSICALLY PART US... BUT NOTHING, NO ONE CAN SEVER THE LOVE WE HAVE...

NOT EVEN THIS MONSTROUS WAR! I'LL COME BACK... TO BE WITH YOU FOREVER!

HANS CAME TO HER ONE LAST TIME... BRIGHT, GLEAMING, IN HIS UNIFORM!

THEN, WHERE ALL HAD BEEN ROMANCE AND LIGHT...

...DARKNESS AND DESPAIR SETTLED. THE ONLY BRIGHT SPOT WAS THE LETTERS...

"While my absence lasts, Eva, my sweet, you will always have these letters. Take them with you to the grove, our grove..."

"Read them under the trees which have witnessed our great love since that first day we carved our names upon them..."

*"Only my memories
of you let me live
amid the
horror
and
death..."*

*"...that
daily
surround
me."*

*"Only the thought
of those first days
of our unbroken
love lets me dare
to be happy..."*

*"Only imagining that each warm
afternoon, as the sun is start-
ing to disappear and long
shadows begin to cover the
woods, you go smiling and
expectant to that lovely grove
to keep our..."*

RENDEZVOUS!

*"... am I able,
dear Eva, to
be certain I
shall return
to you!"*



POOR EVA...LIVING ALL ALONE IN THAT BIG GLOOMY HOUSE! IT'S NO GOOD FOR ONE SO YOUNG!

YOUNG...AND BEAUTIFUL! A PITY...AND A WASTE!

SHAME! THE GIRL IS LOYAL TO HANS...RESPECT HER FOR IT!

AND MOST IN THE VILLAGE DO, BUT NOT ALL SHARE IN THE COMPASSION, THE UNDERSTANDING. SOME LOOK ON HER WITH OTHER EYES. EYES THAT IN THE NIGHT SEEK THE ILLUMINATED WINDOW OF EVA'S BED CHAMBER, PRYING, EAGER EYES PEERING FROM DEEP SHADOW, LIKE AN ANIMAL WAITING PATIENTLY FOR...

...ITS PREY!



EYES THAT BELONGS TO FRANK MULLER.

BUT LIKE SO MANY OTHER TIMES WHEN THE GIRL STROLLS BY FRANK IN THE VILLAGE SQUARE...

TOO MANY IDLE FOOLS LÖTTERING HERE... SUPPOSE SHE RESUFFLED ME?

BUT IF NOT NOW, WHEN WILL THEY SPEAK/MEET? THE THOUGHT WORMS THROUGH FRANK'S MIND, ITCHING, NAGGING, LEADING TO...



YOU CANNOT GO ON IGNORING ME, EVA...TOMORROW I'LL MAKE YOU SPEAK TO ME!



THIS IS NOT THE MOMENT...!

THEY'D LAUGH... I'D NEVER HEAR THE END OF IT!



... OTHER THOUGHTS, DARKER, MORE DESPERATE. THOUGHTS OF RESOLVING THE ABSURD SITUATION.../ IF THE STUPID GIRL WILL NOT WILLINGLY ACCEPT HIM, THEN... HE WILL FORCE HER TO!



AND ONCE FORMER, IT IS A THOUGHT THAT SEEMS MOST APPEALING, INDEED! IT IS A THOUGHT WORTH PUTTING IN-TO IMMEDIATE ACTION!

WHY SHOULD THOSE LIPS OF HERS GO DRY AND WANTING FOR ONE WHO MAY NEVER RETURN? I'LL PUT THEM TO BETTER USE...STOMACHING MY OWN PASSIONS...

NOW... TONIGHT!

NOW, EVA MAINTAINS THESE PILGRIMAGES FAITHFULLY, NOT RETURNING FROM THE GROVE UNTIL IT HAS GROWN TOO DARK TO CONTINUE HER DAILY RITUAL...

SOON... *SOON*... HANS, MY LOVE... ALL WILL BE EXACTLY AS BEFORE! MEAN-TIME, YOUR LETTERS MUST DO...



TAP
TAP
TAP



HANS WOULD
BE LAUGHING...
SHOUTING
BY NOW...

TAP... TAP... TAP... TAP...

HANS, IF IT'S
YOU... WHY DON'T
YOU ENTER? WHY
KEEP KNOCKING...
KNOCKING...

SUDDENLY, EVA'S WILDLY
BEATING HEART SLOWS.
HER CLENCHED WHITE
HANDS RELAX, FLARING
HOPE AND UNCERTAIN
VISIONS BEGIN TO *DIE*.

TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP

BUT THE DOOR,
MOVED RHYTHMI-
CALLY BY THE
NIGHT BREEZE,
BEATS ON,
HEEDLESS OF
THE *DRAMA*
IT CREATED,
OBVIOUS TO
THE PAIN IT
HAS WROUGHT.

RAIN, AND...

...TEARS.

AGAIN... THERE COMES A TAPPING AT EVA'S DOOR.

HANS!
PLEASE,
GOD...



PLEASE...
LET IT BE HANS!
I KNOW I LATCHED
THE DOOR...

THIS TIME
IT COULDN'T BE
THE DOOR!



EVA'S HEART ROUNDS! TO DISCOVER YET ANOTHER ILLUSION, ANOTHER FALSE HOPE WOULD BE UNBEARABLE. THE TAPPING SWELLS LOUDLY, DIMINUSLY, WOULD HANS DO THAT...? IT COULD BE ANYONE... THIEF, FUGITIVE, *MARRAC!* SOFTLY, SLOWLY, EVA EDGES FROM HER BEDROOM, TREMBLING AND FEARFUL, PRAYING FOR EVEN THE *SUGHTEST* ENCOURAGING SIGN...



AND ABRUPTLY... THE TAPPING CEASES!



A VIOLENT GUST OF WIND BEATS AT THE CANDLE FLAMES.



...AND THE FOREBODING WITHIN HER GROWS IN SWIFT, BOUNDING LEAPS!

W-WIND...P





I-I KNOW SOMEONE MUST BE THERE...!

GOD! LET IT BE--



THE LATCH OPENED FROM MY POUNDING, EVA...

IT IS FAULTY!

YOU NEED A MAN... TO FIX SUCH THINGS.



FRANZ MÜLLER! HOW DARE YOU COME INTO MY HOME... UNBIDDEN AND UNWANTED!

THE SHARPNESS OF HER RESPONSE SURPRISES EVEN EVA... AND TRIGGERS FRANZ INTO AN EMOTIONAL FURY!

YES... YES, I DARE! BECAUSE I WON'T LET YOU BE WASTED ANY LONGER ON SOME FOOLISH DREAM!



PRECIOUS HANS IS EITHER DEAD... OR IN THE ARMS OF SOME CAMP FOLLOWER!

IT'S NOT TRUE!

HANS WILL RETURN... AND HE'LL KILL YOU FOR THIS!



YOU'LL NEVER HAVE ME... NEVER!



HERR MÜLLER! LET ME GO! ARE YOU MAD? IF HANS EVER--

DESPERATION GIVES
EVA STRENGTH...
STRENGTH TO FIGHT
AND TO...

...*FLEE!*



TO SCRAMBLE
WILDLY
INSTINCTIVELY...

...FOR THE
ONLY PLACE
THAT HAS
EVER
PROVIDED
COMFORT,
SECURITY..

THE
GRAVE!



HE'S NOT BEHIND
ME! I-I MUST HAVE
ELUDED HIM!
THANK GOD!
HERE OF ALL
PLACES I
SHOULD BE--



SAFE?
DON'T YOU
FEAR GHOSTS
IN THESE
DARK
WOODS?



DON'T
YOU LONG
FOR STRONG
ARMS TO
PROTECT
YOU?



NOOO!



WITH A LAST FRANTIC EFFORT,
EVA SCRATCHES...AND SNOWES!



...EXCEPT THE
SOLDIER STANDING
STILL, MOONLIGHT
GLINTING ON THE
BRASS AND BRAD
OF HIS UNIFORM,
IMPECCABLE AS THE
DAY HE DONNED IT.

HANS...MY
DARLING! I KNEW
WHEN I NEEDED
YOU, YOU'D BE HERE!
AND HE DARED SUG-
GEST YOU WERE
DEAD!





IF YOU WERE DEAD, WHY WOULD I COME EACH DAY TO POLISH YOUR FINE UNIFORM?



WHY DAILY READ HERE THE LETTERS YOUR HANDETS TELL ME TO WRITE...?



IF YOU WERE DEAD, HOW COULD YOU EVER COME BACK TO ME COMPLETELY?

THE SOLDIER IN THE SHADOWS DOES NOT ANSWER...HE ONLY SWARS...



... MUCH AS HE STARED THE DAY EVA KILLED HIM RATHER THAN LET HIM GET OFF TO AMB.



TRUE, YOU HAVE BEEN COLD, DISTANT... SINCE THAT LAST DAY... BUT YOUR HELP TO NIGHT GIVES ME NEW HOPE...

IF I FAITHFULLY KEEP OUR RENDEZVOUS EACH DAY

... YOU WILL RETURN, I KNOW! FULLY . COMPLETELY... AS YOU WERE BEFORE! RETURN... TO BE MINE... FOREVER!

SCREAMING YOUR HEAD OFF BECAUSE YOU'RE MISSING...

VAMPIRELLA

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It's a bad moon on the rise! The sore wind now rattles a tree branch - the ghastly gray evening air is all filled with the sound of the ragged pantings of a ferocious wolf - beast... THEN HE STRUCKS!

His fangs glowing at your Throat sink into your throat... #2407 WOLFWOLF \$2.50



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His transforming hide! His coat, too, is warping, growing malignant! #2401 DR. JEKYLL AS MR. HYDE \$2.50



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